

REMARKS

The Office Action of August 26, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

The present Amendment makes revisions in the specification and abstract to improve the idiomatic English and correct inadvertent informalities.

The present Amendment also revises the claims to improve their form under U.S. claim-drafting practice (changes of the substantive nature have also been made, as will be discussed in more detail below). In several instances this has included specifying that one recited element is "coupled to" another recited element. However, the cooperative relationship specified in MPEP § 2171.01 need not necessarily be a structural linkage; it is quite acceptable for an apparatus claim to verbally tie recited elements together using functional or operational language. It is respectfully submitted that the claims, as presently presented, are suitably definite under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112. Accordingly, the rejection for indefiniteness should be withdrawn.

The present Amendment also forwards proposed drawing changes, as shown in red ink on copies of various figures that are attached hereto. The proposed drawing changes supply labels for the block diagrams, in compliance with the drawing objection in the Office Action. A portion of the drawing objection, however, is respectfully traversed. Figures 4B and 5B illustrate arrangements of data in a buffer (see page 9 of the application, lines 3-5 and 9-11), and thus are more like charts than electrical block diagrams. They do not need labels.

The present Amendment also adds a new set of claims, 19-21, to further protect the invention.

Near the bottom of page 4, the Office Action acknowledges that claims 3-6 and 9-18 are potentially allowable. The present Amendment places claims 3 and 9 in independent form, and it

is respectfully submitted that they are now in condition for allowance (along with their dependent claims).

On pages 3 and 4, the Office Action rejects independent claim 1 (and several dependent claims) for anticipation by U.S. patent 6,347,097 to Deng. For the reasons discussed below, however, it is respectfully submitted that the inventions defined by independent claim 1 and new independent claim 19 are neither anticipated by Deng nor rendered obvious by the reference.

The Deng reference discloses a technique for buffering packets received from a serial bus. Deng's technique includes petitioning a buffer in the form of a FIFO memory. A packet token is stored in the initial register of a data packet and includes information indicating the size of the data packet.

In contrast, claim 1 has been revised to recite that "said storage section is partitioned into a first data area to store the headers and footers of received packets and a second data area to store the actual data in the received packets." The new claim language is supported, for example, by the sentence at page 20 of the present application, lines 2-7. It is respectfully submitted that Deng's petitioning scheme would not have provided an incentive, for an ordinarily skilled person, to partition a storage section into a data area that stores headers and footers and another data area that stores the actual data carried by the received packets.

New independent claim 19 recites the step of "storing the actual data portions in a first region of a buffer memory, and storing the header and footer portions in a second region of the buffer memory." For the reasons noted above with respect to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that it is neither disclosed nor suggested by Deng.

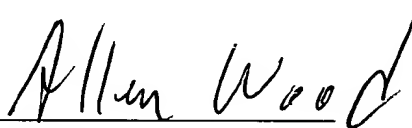
Since claims 2, 7, and 8 depend from claim 1 and recite additional limitations to further define its invention, it is respectfully submitted that they are patentable along with their

independent claim. Furthermore, claims 20 and 21 depend from claim 19 and recite additional limitations to further define its invention, so they are likewise patentable along with their independent claim and need not be further discussed.

It is noted that the application has been amended to include 21 claims, four of them independent. Accordingly, an additional claim fee of \$104 is being included in a remittance that is being submitted concurrently.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allen Wood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A serial bus data control device for communication devices to receive data in a packet format is provided which is capable of obtaining each piece of actual data contained in each of packets needed for reconstructing a series of original data by storing actual data contained in two or more received packets in a memory location with a continued address in a buffer. The serial bus data control device ~~is composed of~~ includes a preprocessing section to recognize each of the packets ~~to receive~~ received through the serial bus and to divide the actual data contained in each of the packets into a plurality of unit length data portions having a predetermined ~~length~~ length, and a storing section to store the actual data portions contained in each of the packets recognized by the preprocessing section. The preprocessing section has an address control circuit to perform addressing to store each of the unit length data constituting the actual data contained in each of the packets.

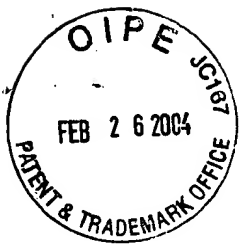


Fig. 1

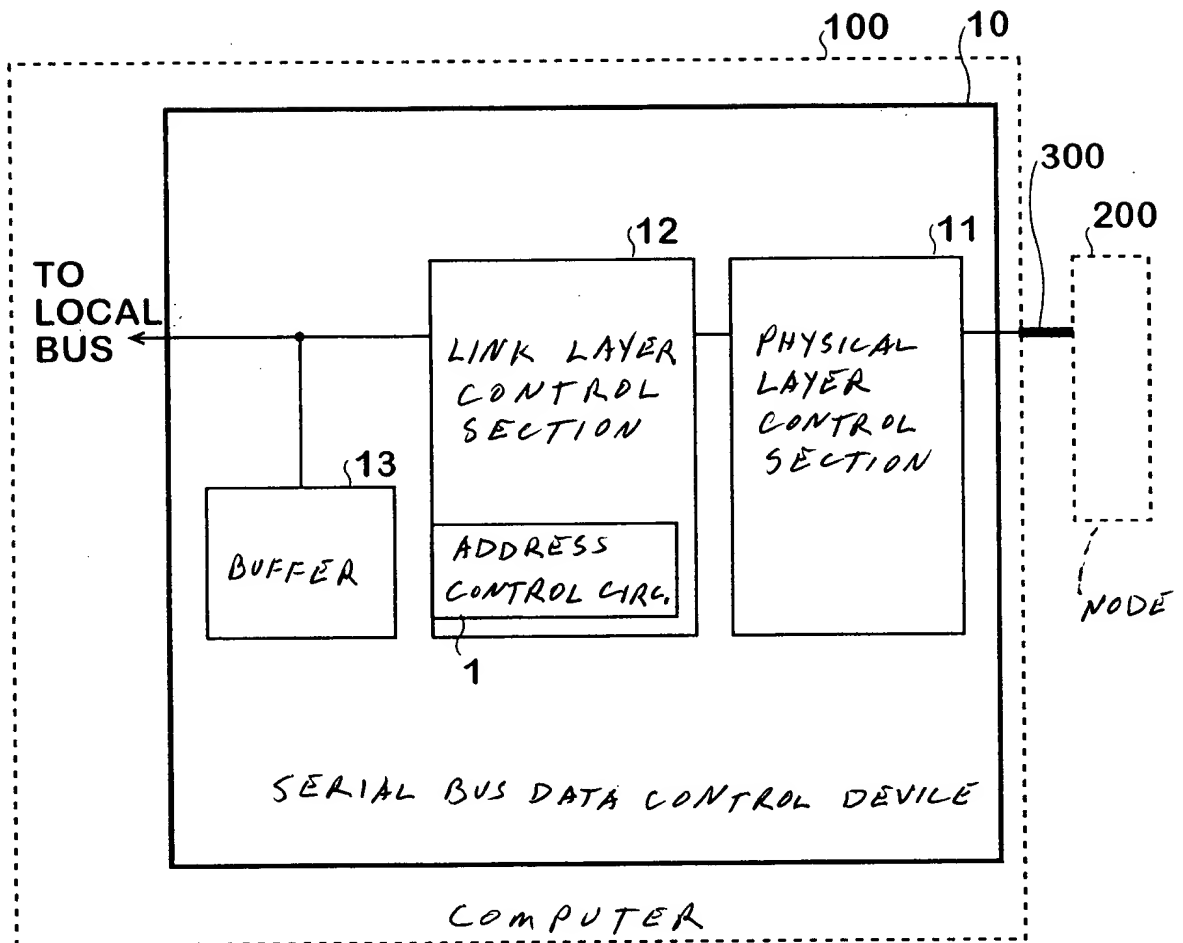


Fig.2A

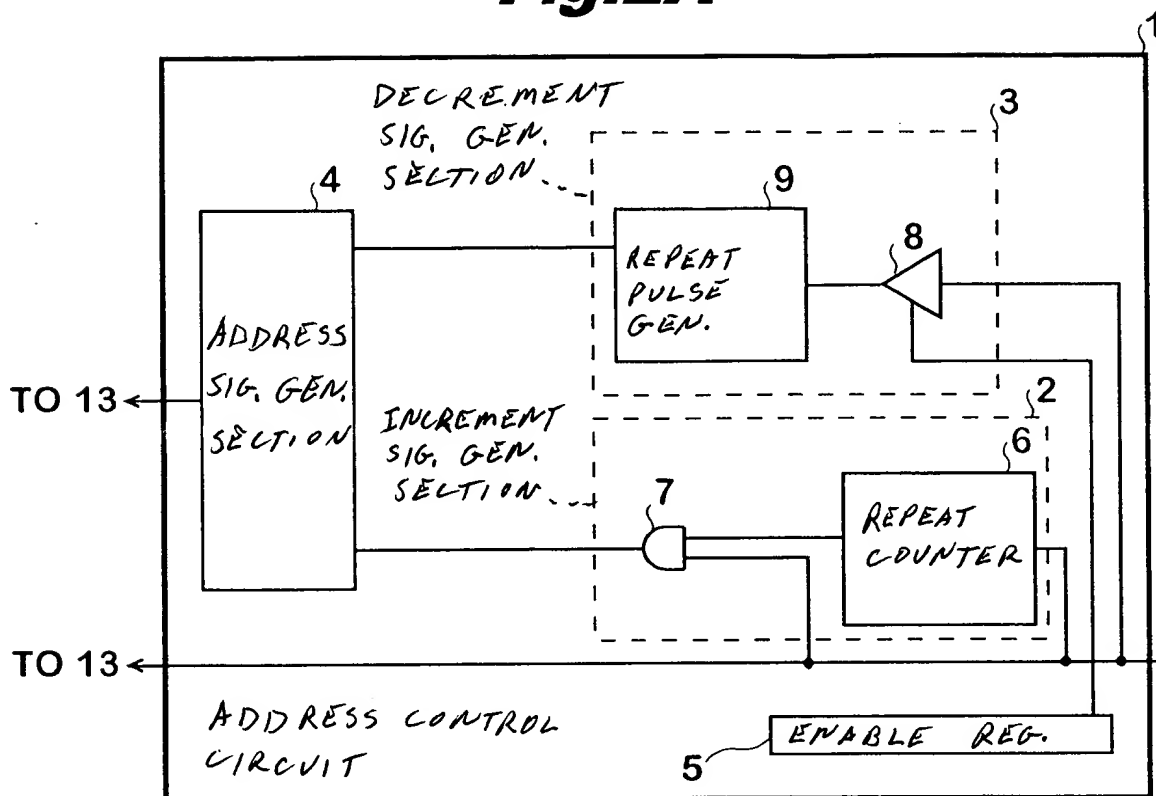


Fig.2B

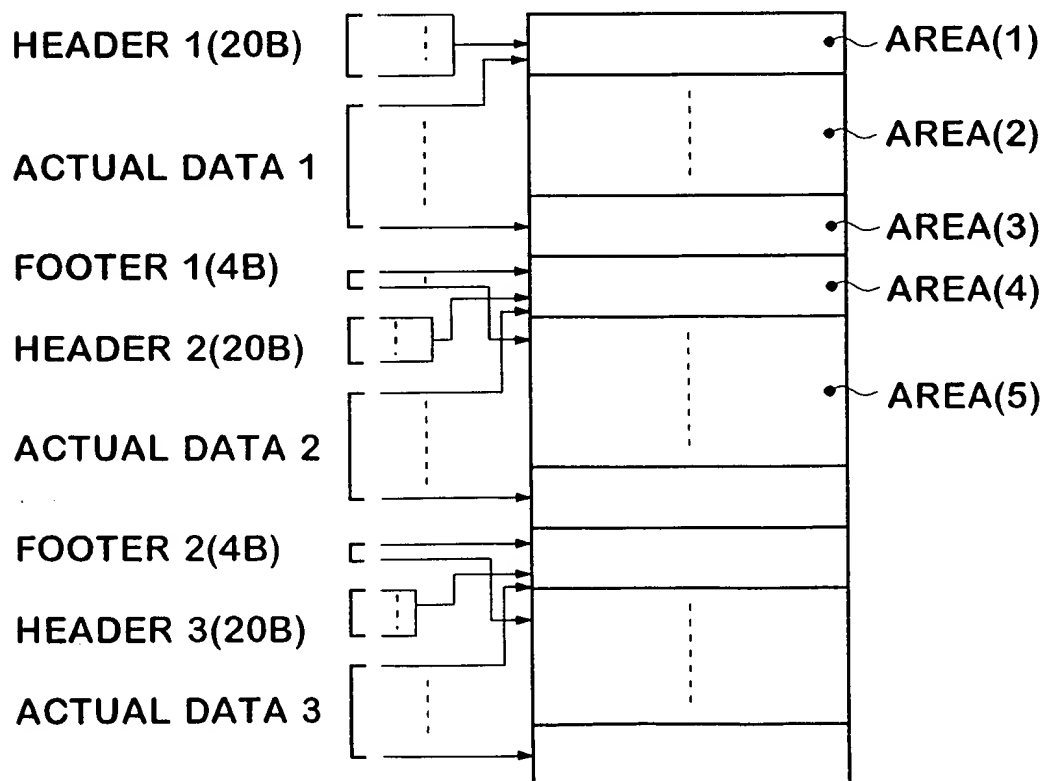


Fig.3A

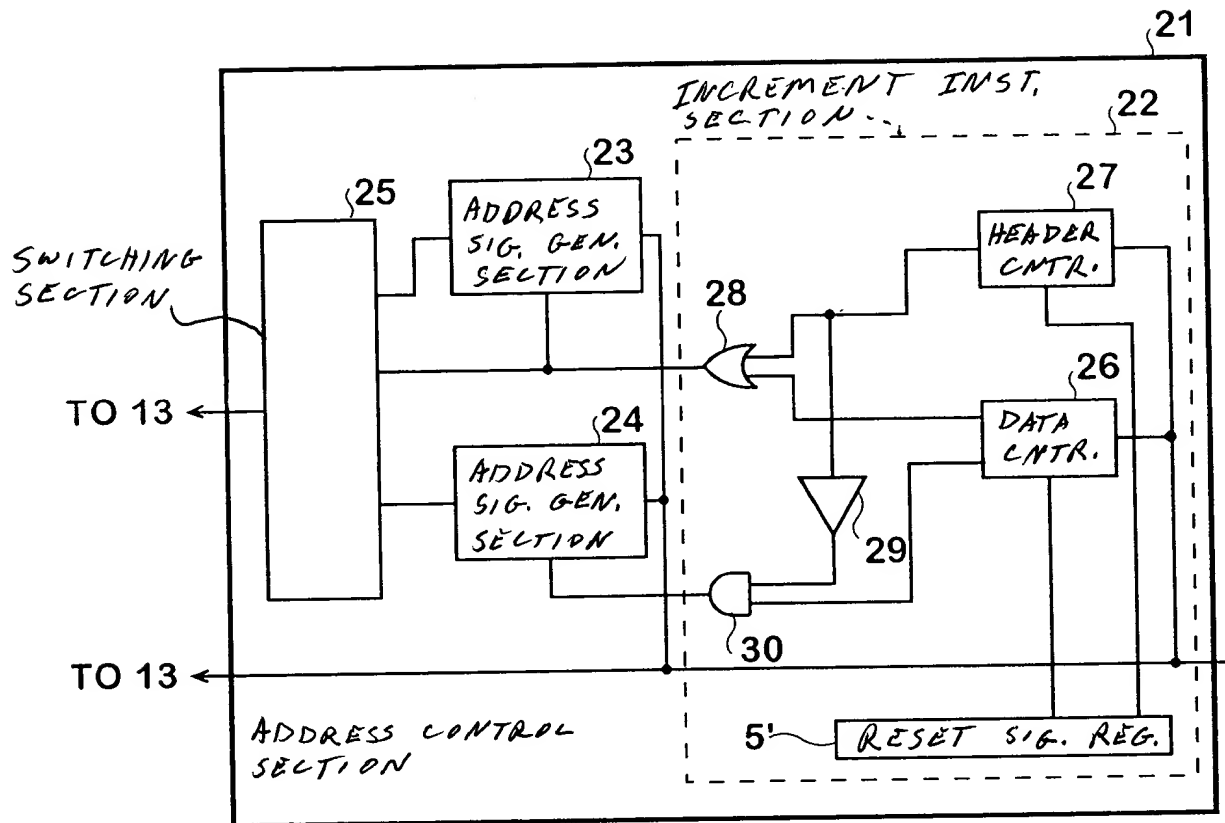
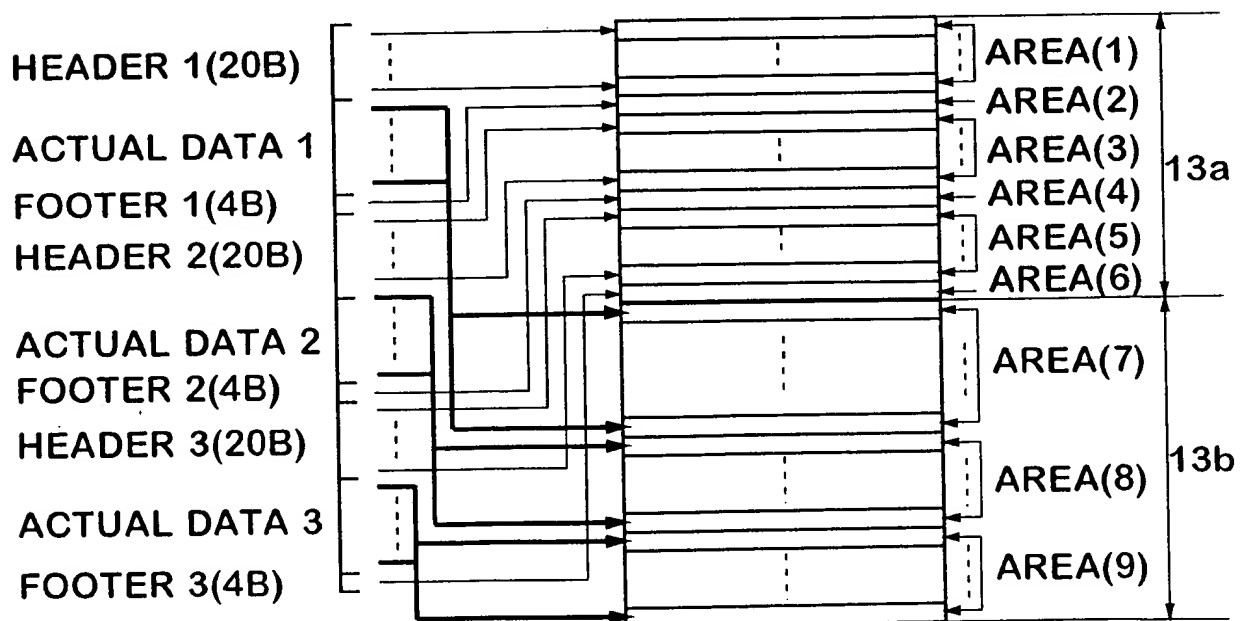
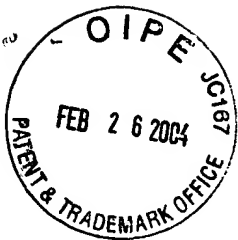
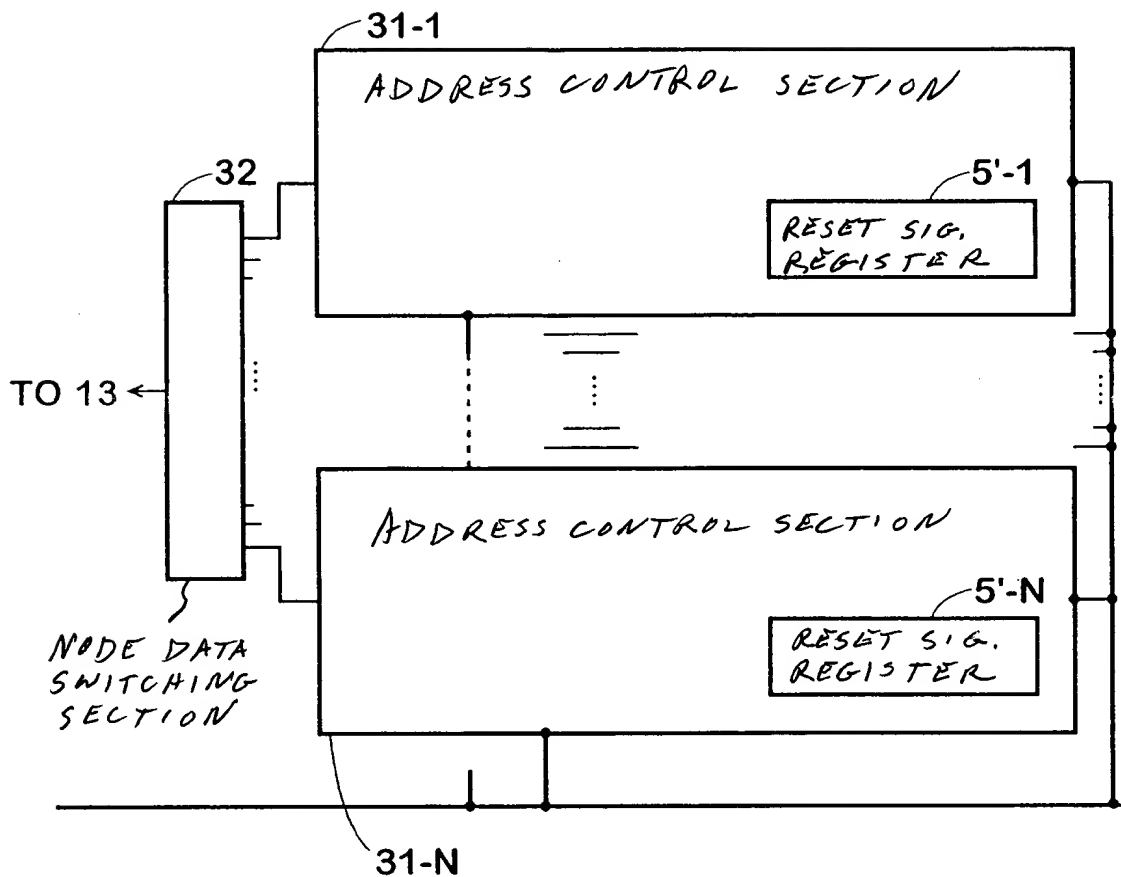
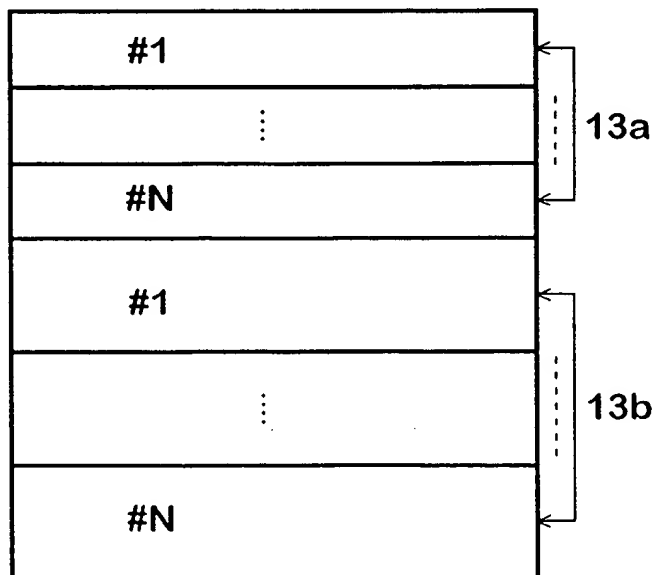
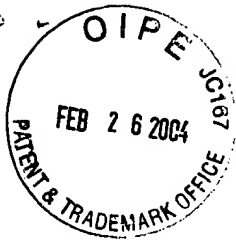
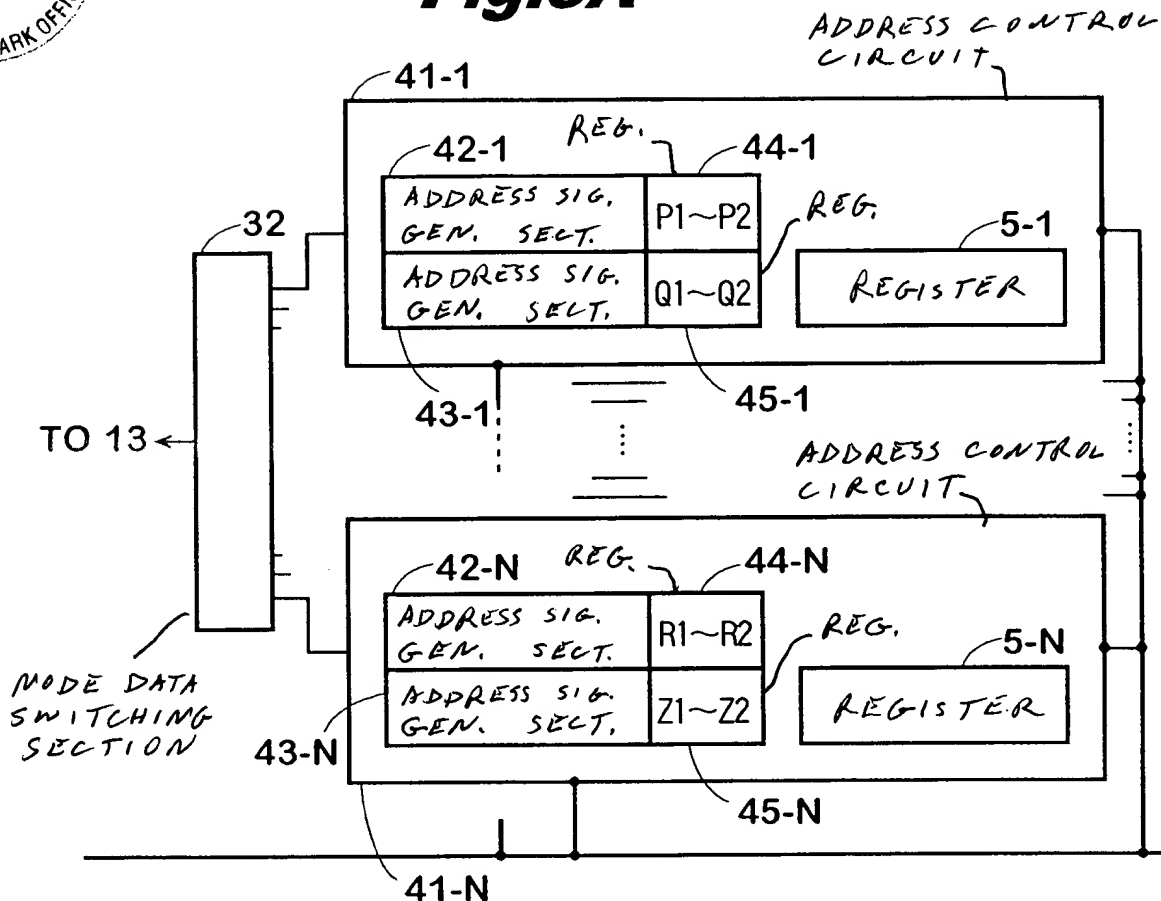


Fig.3B



**Fig.4A****Fig.4B**

**Fig.5A****Fig.5B**